



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

MAILED

JUL 06 2011

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

KRATON POLYMERS U.S. LLC
16400 Park Row
HOUSTON TX 77084

In re Application of	:	
Noel R.M. de Keyzer et al.	:	
Application No. 10/584,870	:	ON PETITION
Filed: June 8, 2007	:	
Attorney Docket No. L0012US	:	

This is a decision on the petition filed June 7, 2011 under the unintentional provisions of 37 CFR 1.137(b), to revive the above-identified application.

The petition is **DISMISSED**.

Any request for reconsideration of this decision must be submitted within **TWO (2) MONTHS** from the mail date of this decision. Extensions of time under 37 CFR 1.136(a) are permitted. The reconsideration request should include a cover letter entitled "Renewed Petition under 37 CFR 1.137(b)." This is **not** a final agency action within the meaning of 5 U.S.C. § 704.

The application became abandoned for failure to timely file a proper reply within the meaning of 37 CFR 1.113 to the final Office action of October 26, 2010. The proposed reply required for consideration of a petition to revive must be a Notice of Appeal (and appeal fee required by 37 CFR 41.20(b)(2), an amendment that *prima facie* places the application in condition for allowance, a Request for Continued Examination and submission (37 CFR 1.114), or the filing of a continuing application under 37 CFR 1.53(b). See MPEP 711.03(c)(II)(A)(2). Accordingly, the date of abandonment of this application is January 27, 2011. A Notice of Abandonment was mailed on May 23, 2011.

A grantable petition under 37 CFR 1.137(b) must be accompanied by: (1) the required reply, unless previously filed; (2) the petition fee as set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(m); (3) a statement that the entire delay in filing the required reply from the due date for the reply until the filing of a grantable petition pursuant to 37 CFR 1.137(b) was unintentional; and (4) any terminal disclaimer (and fee as set forth in 37 CFR 1.20(d)) required by 37 CFR 1.137(d). Where there is a question as to whether either the abandonment or the delay in filing a petition under 37 CFR 1.137 was unintentional, the Director may require additional information. See MPEP 711.03(c)(II)(C) and (D). The instant petition lacks item (1).

As to item 1, the amendment filed on June 7, 2011, does not *prima facie* place the application in condition for allowance, therefore the reply required must be a Notice of Appeal (and appeal fee), an RCE, or the filing of a continuing application under 37 CFR 1.53(b). See attached courtesy copy of the advisory action.

The application file does not indicate a change of address has been filed in this case, although the address given on the petition differs from the address of record. A change of address should be filed in this case in accordance with MPEP 601.03. A courtesy copy of this decision is being mailed to the address noted on the petition. However, until otherwise instructed, all future correspondence regarding this application will be mailed solely to the address of record.

Further correspondence with respect to this matter should be addressed as follows:

By Mail: Mail Stop PETITION
 Commissioner for Patents
 P. O. Box 1450
 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

By hand: U. S. Patent and Trademark Office
 Customer Service Window, Mail Stop Petitions
 Randolph Building
 401 Dulany Street
 Alexandria, VA 22314

The centralized facsimile number is (571) 273-8300.

Telephone inquiries concerning this decision should be directed to Kimberly Inabinet at (571) 272-4618.

/Kimberly Inabinet/

Kimberly Inabinet
Petitions Examiner
Office of Petitions

Attachment: Advisory Action

cc: Gregory N. Clements
1901 Roxborough Road
Suite 250
Charlotte, NC 28211

<p align="center">Advisory Action Before the Filing of an Appeal Brief</p>	Application No. 10/584,870	Applicant(s) DE KEYZER ET AL.	
	Examiner Angela C. Scott	Art Unit 1767	

--The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

THE REPLY FILED 07 June 2011 FAILS TO PLACE THIS APPLICATION IN CONDITION FOR ALLOWANCE.

1. ☒ The reply was filed after a final rejection, but prior to or on the same day as filing a Notice of Appeal. To avoid abandonment of this application, applicant must timely file one of the following replies: (1) an amendment, affidavit, or other evidence, which places the application in condition for allowance; (2) a Notice of Appeal (with appeal fee) in compliance with 37 CFR 41.31; or (3) a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) in compliance with 37 CFR 1.114. The reply must be filed within one of the following time periods:

- a) ☒ The period for reply expires 3 months from the mailing date of the final rejection.
 b) ☐ The period for reply expires on: (1) the mailing date of this Advisory Action, or (2) the date set forth in the final rejection, whichever is later. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of the final rejection.

Examiner Note: If box 1 is checked, check either box (a) or (b). ONLY CHECK BOX (b) WHEN THE FIRST REPLY WAS FILED WITHIN TWO MONTHS OF THE FINAL REJECTION. See MPEP 706.07(f).

Extensions of time may be obtained under 37 CFR 1.136(a). The date on which the petition under 37 CFR 1.136(a) and the appropriate extension fee have been filed is the date for purposes of determining the period of extension and the corresponding amount of the fee. The appropriate extension fee under 37 CFR 1.17(a) is calculated from: (1) the expiration date of the shortened statutory period for reply originally set in the final Office action; or (2) as set forth in (b) above, if checked. Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of the final rejection, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

NOTICE OF APPEAL

2. ☐ The Notice of Appeal was filed on _____. A brief in compliance with 37 CFR 41.37 must be filed within two months of the date of filing the Notice of Appeal (37 CFR 41.37(a)), or any extension thereof (37 CFR 41.37(e)), to avoid dismissal of the appeal. Since a Notice of Appeal has been filed, any reply must be filed within the time period set forth in 37 CFR 41.37(a).

AMENDMENTS

3. ☐ The proposed amendment(s) filed after a final rejection, but prior to the date of filing a brief, will not be entered because
 (a) ☐ They raise new issues that would require further consideration and/or search (see NOTE below);
 (b) ☐ They raise the issue of new matter (see NOTE below);
 (c) ☐ They are not deemed to place the application in better form for appeal by materially reducing or simplifying the issues for appeal; and/or
 (d) ☐ They present additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims.

NOTE: _____. (See 37 CFR 1.116 and 41.33(a)).

4. ☐ The amendments are not in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121. See attached Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment (PTOL-324).
 5. ☐ Applicant's reply has overcome the following rejection(s): _____.
 6. ☐ Newly proposed or amended claim(s) _____ would be allowable if submitted in a separate, timely filed amendment canceling the non-allowable claim(s).
 7. ☐ For purposes of appeal, the proposed amendment(s): a) ☐ will not be entered, or b) ☐ will be entered and an explanation of how the new or amended claims would be rejected is provided below or appended.
 The status of the claim(s) is (or will be) as follows:
 Claim(s) allowed: _____.
 Claim(s) objected to: _____.
 Claim(s) rejected: _____.
 Claim(s) withdrawn from consideration: _____.

AFFIDAVIT OR OTHER EVIDENCE

8. ☐ The affidavit or other evidence filed after a final action, but before or on the date of filing a Notice of Appeal will not be entered because applicant failed to provide a showing of good and sufficient reasons why the affidavit or other evidence is necessary and was not earlier presented. See 37 CFR 1.116(e).
 9. ☐ The affidavit or other evidence filed after the date of filing a Notice of Appeal, but prior to the date of filing a brief, will not be entered because the affidavit or other evidence failed to overcome all rejections under appeal and/or appellant fails to provide a showing of a good and sufficient reasons why it is necessary and was not earlier presented. See 37 CFR 41.33(d)(1).
 10. ☐ The affidavit or other evidence is entered. An explanation of the status of the claims after entry is below or attached.

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION/OTHER

11. ☒ The request for reconsideration has been considered but does NOT place the application in condition for allowance because:
Please see the attached response to arguments.
 12. ☐ Note the attached Information Disclosure Statement(s). (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s). _____.
 13. ☐ Other: _____.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed June 7, 2011 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicants argue that the Polymer E referred to in the rejection does not have a molecular weight within the claimed range. While this may be true, the reference teaches that the molecular weights of the polymers should be within a preferred range of 150,000 to 250,000 (Page 5, lines 21-25), which does encompass the claimed range. Applicants are reminded that a reference may be relied upon for all that it would have reasonably suggested to one having ordinary skill in the art, including nonpreferred embodiments, i.e., examples. *Merck & Co. v. Biocraft Laboratories*, 874 F.2d 804, 10 USPQ2d 1843 (Fed. Cir.), cert. denied, 493 U.S. 975 (1989). MPEP 2123.

Regarding all of the data argued by the applicants, nowhere have the applicants shown a good side by side comparison of polymers with a coupling efficiency in the claimed range (63 to 80%) as compared to those polymers with a coupling efficiency as taught by de Keyzer et al. (81 to 87%). This is the crux of the rejection of record. The Office contends that the two ranges of coupling efficiency of the polymers are close enough that one of ordinary skill in the art would expect them to behave similarly. The claimed range has a maximum of 80% and the reference has a minimum of 81%. There is not sufficient, proper evidence on the record that a polymer with a coupling efficiency of 80% would behave differently than the same polymer with a coupling efficiency of 81%. This is the evidence that needs to be presented.

Additionally, when discussing the examples of the reference and the instant application, the applicants make remarks of "would likely also have an increase" or "may very well have a negative effect." These remarks are conclusory statements which are not supported by any actual evidence. They are simply remarks of attorney argument.

As for the present invention having a "consisting of" and not "comprising" transitional phrase, this is not true. The current claims are "consisting essentially of" which, as explained in previous responses, is treated as "comprising" absent clear evidence on the record that a component negatively affects the basic and novel characteristics of the invention. This evidence has not been presented, especially in regards to Irganox 1010.

Art Unit: 1767

In conclusion, the de Keyzer et al. reference teaches all of the claimed components and ranges except for the coupling efficiency. It has been stated that the claimed range and the taught range are so close as to expect the polymers to have similar properties. Therefore, the claimed properties would therefore be met by having a polymer with the claimed ranges and components. Since the claimed ranges and components are taught in the de Keyzer et al. reference, aside from the coupling efficiency, it follows that unless the coupling efficiency is shown to cause the polymers to behave differently and unexpectedly, the invention is obvious from the de Keyzer et al. reference.

Correspondence

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Angela C. Scott whose telephone number is (571)270-3303. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday, 8:00 am to 5:00 pm, EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mark Eashoo can be reached on (571) 272-1197. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/A. C. S./
Examiner, Art Unit 1767
June 28, 2011